CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A networking system, comprising:

        an on-site hub in communication with an off-site network; and

        a plurality of on-site terminals in wireless communication with the hub, forming a wireless local area network, each terminal allowing access to web browser functionality and having access to the off-site network through the hub.

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    2.   The networking system of claim 1, wherein the hub is further in communication with a peripheral, wherein each terminal has access to the peripheral through the hub.

15   3.   The networking system of claim 1, further including:

        a second on-site hub in communication with the hub.

    4.   The networking system of claim 1, wherein each terminal includes:

        a smartcard reader for receiving a smartcard assigned to a designated

20   user for insertion in the smartcard reader, wherein the smartcard stores information associated with the designated user.

    5.   The networking system of claim 1, wherein the hub is in communication with an off-site network via an off-site web server.

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    6.   The networking system of claim 1, wherein the hub is in communication with an off-site network via an off-site web server, wherein the web server maintains account information about the users of the wireless local area network so that a user can use any terminal.

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7.   The networking system of claim 1, wherein each terminal further includes e-mail and chat applications.

8.   A networking system, comprising:

5   a hub in communication with the Internet;

a terminal in wireless communication with the hub, the terminal allowing access to web browser functionality and including a smartcard reader; and

a smartcard assigned to a designated user for insertion in the smartcard

10   reader, wherein insertion of the smartcard initiates a user session.

9.   The system of claim 8, wherein upon removal of the smartcard, the user session ends.

15   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein when the user session ends, information regarding the user session is stored.

11.   The system of claim 8, wherein information regarding the user session is stored, and wherein upon insertion of the smartcard to initiate a subsequent user

20   session, the stored user session information is restored to the terminal thereby allowing the user to continue the user session in the subsequent user session.

12.   The system of claim 8, wherein the terminal requires no user setup to operate.

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13.   The system of claim 8, wherein the smartcard is one of a user card, an administrative card, a maintenance card, or an update card.

14.   The system of claim 8, wherein the hub is in communication with the

30   Internet via an off-site web server.

15.   A networking system, comprising:

an on-site hub in communication with an off-site application service provider (ASP) having a web server;

5   a plurality of on-site terminals in wireless communication with the hub, forming a wireless local area network, each terminal allowing access to web browser functionality and having access to the ASP through the hub and including a smartcard reader;

a smartcard assigned to a designated user for insertion in the smartcard

10   reader, wherein insertion of the smartcard initiates a user session and wherein the smartcard stores information associated with the designated user.

16.   The networking system of claim 15, wherein the hub is further in communication with a peripheral, wherein each terminal has access to the

15   peripheral through the hub.

17.   The networking system of claim 1, further including:

a second on-site hub in communication with the hub.

20   18.   The system of claim 15, wherein upon removal of the smartcard, the user session ends.

19.   The system of claim 15, wherein information regarding the user session is stored at the ASP, and wherein upon insertion of the smartcard to initiate a

25   subsequent user session, the stored user session information is restored to the terminal thereby allowing the user to continue the user session in the subsequent user session.

20.   The system of claim 15, wherein the smartcard is one of a user card, a

30   guest card, an administrative card, a maintenance card, or an update card.

21.   A wireless local area network (WLAN), comprising:

a terminal, including:

a display;

5   a keyboard;

a pointing device;

a writing tablet for input of non-latin characters;

a wireless transceiver;

a smartcard reader; and

10   a hub able to receive wireless communications from the terminal,

including:

an Internet connection mechanism;

a peripheral connection mechanism;

a wireless transceiver;

15   a smartcard reader;

at least one memory device storing an operating system and a

web browser application;

wherein the terminal further includes at least one memory device storing

a scaled-down operating system, wherein the scaled-down operating system is

20   scaled-down in comparison with the operating system stored on the hub,

wherein the scaled-down operating system is capable of initiating a wireless

connection between the hub and the terminal and downloading the operating

system and the web browser application.

25   22.   A method of establishing a web browsing session, comprising:

receiving a smartcard by a terminal;

using information stored on the smartcard to recall past session

information;

displaying the past session information, thereby allowing the user to

30   continue a past session.

23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

        detecting the removal the smartcard from the terminal;

5   sending close session information to a web server.